APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/797,141	03/11/2004	Makoto Matuoka	2004_0317A	7768

513 7590 12/18/2007		EXAMINER
WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P.		KAO, WEI PO ERIC
2033 K STREET N. W.		

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2616	

SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1021

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
12/18/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/797,141	MATUOKA ET AL.
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Wei-po Kao	2616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
 Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>09 October 2007</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-28* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-5,7,15-23,25 and 27* is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *6, 8-14, 24, 26, 28* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

    1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

    2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

    3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Respond to Amendment

1.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejection - 35 USC § 103

2.   This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3.   The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* v. *John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1.   Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.

2.   Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.

3.   Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.

4.   Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

4.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at ·the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5.   Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harrison et al, U.S. Patent No 6091709 in view of Sugai et al U.S. Patent No 6658003.

Regarding Claim 1, Harrison et al disclose that **a packet-relaying device** (see Abstract, Figure 2), **comprising: a plurality of queues** (see Figure 2 Element 2), **each of the plurality of queues**

being operable to store a packet in correspondence to priority thereof (see Column 2 Line

63-66); **a scheduler** (see Figure 2 Element 13) **operable to take out a packet from one of the**

plurality of queues to output the packet to outside of the packet-relaying device (see

Column 3 Line 12-14); **a packet-classifying-rule-storing unit** (see Figure 2 Element 11)

operable to store a packet-classifying rule (see Column 2 Line 51-53 i.e. the QoS manager

must have classification rules stored in order to assign the proper service level to the incoming

traffic); **a packet-classifying unit** (see Figure 2 Element 12) **operable to output a packet to**

one of the plurality of queues based on the packet-classifying rule stored in the packet-

classifying-rule-storing unit (see Column 2 Line 63-66). However, Harrison et al do not

disclose that **a flow information-storing unit operable to store flow-defining information of a**

flow and priority information of the flow, wherein the flow information-storing unit is

operated in a manner different from that of the packet-classifying-rule-storing unit. Sugai

et al from the same field of endeavor disclose that **a flow information-storing unit** (see

Abstract, Figure 10) **operable to store flow-defining information of a flow and priority**

information of the flow (see Figure 10 Element 101), **wherein the flow information-storing**

unit is operated in a manner different from that of the packet-classifying-rule-storing unit

(clearly the classifying-rule-store unit is used to classify incoming packet while the flow-

information-store unit is used to aid the flow of packets in terms of routing). At the time of the

invention, it would have been obvious to a person ordinary skill in the art to implement the

functionalities of the packet relaying device from Sugai to Harrison. The rationale would have

been that the QoS control and routing flow control can be done in a wider range in terms of

network environment such as high speed communication environment.

Regarding Claim 2, Sugai et al further disclose that **the packet-relaying device, wherein the flow-defining information includes a source IP address of an IP header, a destination IP address of the IP header, a protocol number of the IP header, and an identification of the IP header** (see Figure 10, Column 11 Line 12-20). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person ordinary skill in the art to include the IP flow related information in a flow information storing unit. The rationale would have been that it allows robust mechanism to route time sensitive material to be passed on an IP network.

Regarding Claim 3, Sugai et al further disclose that **the packet-relaying device, further comprising a header-checking unit operable to check whether or not an inputted packet is a non-head fragmented packet** (see Figure 9, Column 43-55 i.e. encapsulating a packet means adding a header to a packet, thus if a packet is determined not encapsulated according the 911/921, then the packet is considered as non-head packet; also it is common for a packet to be fragmentized especially for ATM and real time traffic: often the decision of fragmentization also depends on the priority of data traffic). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person ordinary skill in the art to determine the structure of a packet in a transmitting system. The rationale would have been that proper packet structure is helpful in helping improve the routing speed at the transmitting end.

Regarding Claim 4, Sugai et al further disclose that **the packet-relaying, wherein the header-checking unit is operable to judge whether or not the inputted packet is a head fragmented packet** (see Figure 9, Column 43-55), **and wherein the packet-relaying device further comprises a flow information-registering unit operable to register** (see Figure 2 Element 14), **into the flow information-storing unit, flow-defining information of a flow to which the inputted packet belongs and priority information of the flow** (see Column 6 Line 15-18) **when the header-checking unit judges that the inputted packet is a head fragmented packet** (see Column 5 Line 47-49). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person ordinary skill in the art to store flow information according to proper packets received. The rationale would have been that proper packet information is helpful in helping improve the routing speed at the transmitting end.

Regarding Claim 5, Harrison et al disclose that **the packet relaying device wherein, the packet-classifying unit outputs a packet that is judged to be not a non-head fragmented packet by the header-checking unit to one of the plurality of queues, based on the packet-classifying rule stored in said packet-classifying-rule-storing unit** (see Column 2 Line 46-67). However, Harrison et al do not disclose that **the flow-determining unit operable to output a packet that is judged to be a non-head fragmented packet by the header-checking unit to one of the plurality of queues, based on the flow-defining information and the priority information stored in the flow information-storing unit.** Sugai et al from the same field of endeavor disclose that **the flow-determining unit operable to output a packet that is judged to be a non-head fragmented packet by the header-checking unit to one of the plurality of**

queues, based on the flow-defining information and the priority information stored in the flow information-storing unit (see Figures 2 and 9, Column 5 Line 20-32, Column Line 30-59). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person ordinary skill in the art to implement the functionality of internally distributing different input packets to different queues according to different rules and conditions. The rationale would have been that proper packet structure is helpful in helping improve the routing speed at the transmitting end.

Regarding Claim 7, Harrison et al disclose that **discarding packets when a packet is not inputted for a predetermined time and priority information** (see Column 2 Line 50-62, Column 9 Line 9-22). However, Harrison et al do not disclose that **a deleting unit operable to delete flow-defining information of a flow.** Sugai et al from the same field of endeavor disclose that **a deleting unit operable to delete flow-defining information of a flow** (see column 6 Line 15-18 i.e. the entries of the filter/QoS table must be able to be deleted; when the packets for a certain flow is deleted, the associated entries should be also deleted). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person ordinary skill in the art to implement the functionality of dynamically updating entries of an information table. The rationale would have been that it is desired to reallocate the storage space for other still active packet in order to fully utilize the system resource.

Regarding Claim 15, Sugai et al further disclose that **the packet-relaying device, further comprising an AV packet-judging unit operable to judge whether or not an inputted packet**

is an AV packet, wherein the packet-classifying unit outputs the packet to one of the

plurality of queues such that an AV packet has higher priority than a non AV packet (see

Column 10 Line 48-67 i.e. a packet must be determined a video or audio packet before assigned

the associated priority). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person

ordinary skill in the art to implement the functionality of internally distributing different input

packets to different queues according to different packet types, rules and conditions. The

rationale would have been that proper packet structure is helpful in helping improve the routing

speed at the transmitting end.

6.   Claims 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harrison et al,

U.S. Patent No 6091709 and Sugai et al U.S. Patent No 6658003 as applied to claim 15 above,

and further in view of Riddle et al U.S. Patent No 6591299.

Regarding Claim 16, Harrison et al and Sugai et al disclose all the limitations in claim 15 except

that **the packet-relaying device, wherein, when the inputted packet is an HTTP packet, the**

AV packet-judging unit judges whether or not the inputted packet is an AV packet

according to information of Context-Type of the inputted packet. Riddle et al from the same

field of endeavor disclose that **the packet-relaying device, wherein, when the inputted packet**

is an HTTP packet, the AV packet-judging unit judges whether or not the inputted packet

is an AV packet according to information of Context-Type of the inputted packet (see

Column 9 Line 61-67, Column 10 Line 1-7 i.e. it is well known in the art that the content-type

field in the HTTP header is used to determine the media type of the packet). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person ordinary skill in the art to determine the type of data carried by a HTTP packet by looking into the content-type field. The rationale would have been that without reinventing a new method to determine a HTTP packet the deployment of the system can be wieldy accepted.

7.   Claims 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harrison et al, U.S. Patent No 6091709 and Sugai et al U.S. Patent No 6658003 as applied to claim 15 above, and further in view of Brandt et al U.S. Patent No 6801530.

Regarding Claim 17, Harrison et al and Sugai et al disclose all the limitations in claim 15 except that **the packet -relaying device, wherein, when a packet of a flow defined in the flow information-storing unit has been inputted continuously for a predetermined time, the AV packet-judging unit judges that the flow defined in the flow information-storing unit is a flow of an AV packet.** Brandt et al from the same field of endeavor disclose that **the packet-relaying device, wherein, when a packet of a flow defined in the flow information-storing unit has been inputted continuously for a predetermined time, the AV packet-judging unit judges that the flow defined in the flow information-storing unit is a flow of an AV packet** (see Abstract, Column 4 Line 45-67 i.e. the packets carrying audio or video stream follow synchronization/timing agreement between both sender and receiver of a communication). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person ordinary skill in the art to determine a packet type according to the associated characteristics. The rationale would have

been that with correct identification of packet type, system processing the packets can perform efficiently without wasting extra system resource.

Regarding Claim 18, Harrison et al and Sugai et al disclose all the limitations in claim 15 except that **the packet-relaying device, wherein said AV packet-judging unit judges whether or not a flow defined in the flow information-storing unit is related to an AV packet, by comparing a number of inputted packets of the flow with a predetermined AV threshold.** Brandt et al from the same field of endeavor disclsoe that **the packet-relaying device, wherein said AV packet-judging unit judges whether or not a flow defined in the flow information-storing unit is related to an AV packet, by comparing a number of inputted packets of the flow with a predetermined AV threshold** (see Abstract, Column 4 Line 37-44, Column 5 Line 52-67, Column 6 Line 1-9 i.e. the packets carrying audio or video stream follow strict sequence agreement between both sender and receiver of a communication). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person ordinary skill in the art to determine a packet type according to the associated characteristics. The rationale would have been that with correct identification of packet type, system processing the packets can perform efficiently without wasting extra system resource.

8.   Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harrison et al, U.S. Patent No 6091709 and Sugai et al U.S. Patent No 6658003 as applied to

claim 15 above, and further in view of Kim U.S. Publication No 20020085582 and Brandt et al

U.S. Patent No 6801530.

Regarding Claim 19, Harrison et al and Sugai et al disclose all the limitations in claim 15.

However, Harrison et al and Sugai et al do not disclose that **the packet-relaying device,**

wherein the flow information-storing unit stores information of an AV threshold

concerning a flow defined therein, and wherein the AV packet-judging unit judges whether

or not the packet is an AV packet using the AV threshold that is stored in said flow

information storing unit and that is set based on priority such that the AV threshold is

greater for a video packet than for an audio packet. Kim from the same field of endeavor

disclose that **the packet-relaying device, wherein the flow information-storing unit stores**

information of an AV threshold concerning a flow defined therein, and wherein the AV

packet-judging unit judges whether or not the packet is an AV packet using the AV

threshold that is stored in said flow information storing unit and that is set based on

priority such that the AV threshold is greater for a video packet than for an audio packet

(see Abstract, [0030]). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person

ordinary skill in the art to include the AV priority in the flow information storing unit and allow

greater priority to video over audio. The rationale would have been that with correct proper

priority settings, system processing the packets can perform efficiently without wasting extra

system resource; streaming video clips is an example.

Still regarding Claim 19, Harrison et al, Sugai et al and Kim disclose all the limitations except that **the AV packet-judging unit judges whether or not the packet is an AV packet using the AV threshold that is stored in said flow information storing unit and that is set based on packet size such that the AV threshold is greater for a video packet than for an audio packet.** Brandt et al from the same field of endeavor disclose that **the AV packet-judging unit judges whether or not the packet is an AV packet using the AV threshold that is stored in said flow information storing unit and that is set based on packet size such that the AV threshold is greater for a video packet than for an audio packet** (see Abstract, Column 5 Line 43-51 i.e. consider a particular scenario that a video stream session when maximum bandwidth is required for video and minimum bandwidth is for audio). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person ordinary skill in the art to include the AV packet size information in the flow information storing unit and allow greater priority to video over audio. The rationale would have been that with correct proper priority settings, system processing the packets can perform efficiently without wasting extra system resource; streaming video clips is an example.

Regarding Claim 20, Harrison et al, Sugai et al, Kim and Brandt et al further disclose that **the packet-relaying device, further comprising an item-deleting unit operable to delete information of a flow from the flow information-storing unit** (see Sugai et al Column 6 Line 15-21) **when an inputted packet defined in the flow information-storing unit has a packet size different from the packet size stored in the flow information-storing unit** (see Brandt et al Column 5 Line 43-51). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person

in the art to implement the functionality of dynamically updating entries of an information table. The rationale would have been that it is desired to reallocate the storage space for other still active packet in order to fully utilize the system resource.

9.   Claims 21, 22 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harrison et al, U.S. Patent No 6091709 and Sugai et al U.S. Patent No 6658003 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Brandt et al U.S. Patent No 6801530.

Regarding Claim 21, Harrison et al and Sugai et al disclose all the limitations in claim 1 except that **the packet-relaying device, further comprising an RTP-judging unit operable to judge whether or not an inputted packet is an RTP packet, wherein the RTP-judging unit judges that a flow defined in the flow information-storing unit is a flow of an RTP packet when a packet of the flow defined in the flow information-storing unit has been inputted continuously for a predetermined time.** Brandt et al from the same field of endeavor disclose that **the packet-relaying device, further comprising an RTP-judging unit operable to judge whether or not an inputted packet is an RTP packet, wherein the RTP-judging unit judges that a flow defined in the flow information-storing unit is a flow of an RTP packet when a packet of the flow defined in the flow information-storing unit has been inputted continuously for a predetermined time** (see Abstract, Column 4 Line 45-67 i.e. the packets carrying audio or video stream follow synchronization/timing agreement between both sender and receiver of a communication). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a

person ordinary skill in the art to determine a packet type according to the associated characteristics. The rationale would have been that with correct identification of packet type, system processing the packets can perform efficiently without wasting extra system resource.

Regarding Claim 22, Brandt et al further disclose that **the packet-relaying device, wherein the RTP-judging unit judges whether or not a flow defined in the flow information-storing unit is related to an RTP packet, by comparing a number of inputted packets of the flow with a predetermined RTP threshold** (see Abstract, Column 4 Line 37-44, Column 5 Line 52-67, Column 6 Line 1-9 i.e. the packets carrying audio or video stream follow strict sequence agreement between both sender and receiver of a communication). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person ordinary skill in the art to determine a packet type according to the associated characteristics. The rationale would have been that with correct identification of packet type, system processing the packets can perform efficiently without wasting extra system resource.

Regarding Claim 25, Brandt et al further disclose that **the packet-relaying device, wherein the flow information-storing unit stores SSRC information of an RTP header** (see Column 5 Line 1-12). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person ordinary skill in the art to include the SSRC information in the flow information storing unit. The rationale would have been that the QoS of a streaming session between two communication endpoints is maintained.

10.   Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harrison et al,

U.S. Patent No 6091709, Sugai et al U.S. Patent No 6658003 and Brandt et al U.S. Patent No

6801530 as applied to claim 21 above, and further in view of Kim U.S. Publication No

20020085582.

Regarding Claim 23, Harrison et al, Sugai et al and Brandt et al disclose all the limitations in

claim 21 except that **the packet-relaying device, wherein the flow information-storing unit**

stores information of an AV threshold of a flow defined therein, and wherein the RTP-

judging unit judges whether or not an inputted packet is an RTP packet by using the AV

threshold that is stored in the flow information storing unit and that is set such that the AV

threshold is greater for a video packet than for an audio packet. Kim from the same field of

endeavor disclose that **the packet-relaying device, wherein the flow information-storing unit**

stores information of an AV threshold of a flow defined therein, and wherein the RTP-

judging unit judges whether or not an inputted packet is an RTP packet by using the AV

threshold that is stored in the flow information storing unit and that is set such that the AV

threshold is greater for a video packet than for an audio packet (see Abstract, [0030]). At

the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person ordinary skill in the art to

include the AV priority in the flow information storing unit and allow greater priority to video

over audio. The rationale would have been that with correct proper priority settings, system

processing the packets can perform efficiently without wasting extra system resource; streaming

video clips is an example.

11.   Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harrison et al,

U.S. Patent No 6091709 and Sugai et al U.S. Patent No 6658003 as applied to claim 1 above,

and further in view of Mueller et al U.S. Publication No 20030163736.

Regarding Claim 27, Harrison et al and Sugai et al disclose all the limitations in claim 1 except

that **the packet-relaying device, further comprising: a switch and a packet-classifying-rule-**

changing unit operable to change the packet-classifying rule stored in the packet-

classifying-rule-storing unit according to a state of said switch. Mueller et al from the same

field of endeavor disclose that **the packet-relaying device, further comprising: a switch and a**

packet-classifying-rule-changing unit operable to change the packet-classifying rule stored

in the packet-classifying-rule-storing unit according to a state of said switch (see Abstract,

[0013]). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person ordinary skill in

the art to implement the functionality of dynamically updating entries of an information table.

The rationale would have been that it is desired to reallocate the storage space for other still

active packet in order to fully utilize the system resource.

Allowable Subject Matter

12.   Claims 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 24, 26 and 28 objected to as being dependent upon a

rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the

limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

13.   The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

For claim 6, the prior art fail to show alone or in combination that determining whether is a non-

head fragmented packet is a final non-head fragmented packet and deleting entries of a flow

information table according to the result of the determination. For claim 8, the prior art fail to

show alone or in combination that both flow determining unit and packet classifying unit

outputting packet to the plurality of queues according the whether information is registered in the

flow information storing unit. For claim 24, the prior art fail to show alone or in combination

that adding "1" to port number of a TCP/UDP header according to the information related the a

RTCP packet. For claim 26, the prior art fail to show alone or in combination that updating an

entry in a flow information storing unit according to the information, such as SSRC or payload

type, included in the header of a RTP packet. For claim 28, the prior art fail to show alone or in

combination that a device that comprises a RTP switch, DSCP switch, IPv6 flow label switch

and VLAN tag switch specializing in its associated functionalities.

Conclusion

14.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Referring to the PTO Form 892, references are cited to show similar method and system processing the flow of RTP packets.

15.   Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

In the case of amending the claimed invention, Applicant is respectfully requested to indicate the portion(s) of the specification which dictate(s) the structure relied on for proper interpretation and also to verify and ascertain the metes and bounds of the claimed invention.
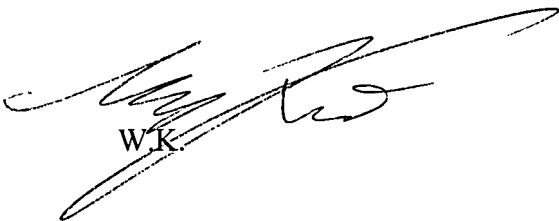
16.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Wei-po Kao whose telephone number is (571)270-3128. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:30AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Ngo can be reached on (571)272-3139. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

W.K.

RICKY Q. NGO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER